

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

Bobby Ayers,	§	
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	Complaint for a Civil Case
	§	
v.	§	Case No. 2:23-cv-11763
	§	
First Premier Bank,	§	JURY TRIAL DEMAND
Equifax Information Services, LLC,	§	
Experian Information Solutions, Inc.; and	§	
TransUnion, LLC,	§	
	§	
Defendants.	§	

Comes now Plaintiff, Bobby Ayers, by and through counsel undersigned, upon information and belief, herby complains as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. This action arises out of Defendants’ violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (“FCRA”) whereby Plaintiff discovered inaccurate information reporting on Plaintiff’s consumer credit report, disputed that inaccurate information, and Defendants willfully or negligently refused to correct the inaccurate information on Plaintiff’s consumer credit report, damaging Plaintiff.

PARTIES

2. Plaintiff is, and was at all times hereinafter mentioned, a resident of Wayne County, Michigan.

3. At all times pertinent hereto, Plaintiff was a “consumer” as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1681(a)(c).

4. Defendant, First Premier Bank, (hereinafter “First Premier”) is a corporation existing and operating under the laws of the State of Michigan and is a financial institution and a furnisher of consumer credit information to consumer reporting agencies.

5. At all times pertinent hereto, First Premier was a “person” as that term is defined in 15 U.S.C. §1681a(b) and also a “furnisher” of credit information as that term is described in 15 U.S.C. §1681s-2 *et seq.*

6. Defendant, Experian Information Solutions, Inc., (“Experian”) is a credit reporting agency, licensed to do business in Michigan.

7. Defendant, Equifax Information Services, LLC, (“Equifax”) is a credit reporting agency, licensed to do business in Michigan.

8. Defendant, TransUnion, LLC, (“Transunion”) is a credit reporting agency, licensed to do business in Michigan.

9. Defendant Experian, Equifax, and Transunion are, and at all times relevant hereto were, regularly doing business in the State of Michigan.

10. Experian, Equifax, and Transunion are regularly engaged in the business of assembling, evaluating, and disbursing information concerning consumers for the purpose of furnishing consumer reports, as defined in 15 U.S.C. §1681(d), to third parties.

11. Experian, Equifax, and Transunion furnish such consumer reports to third parties under contract for monetary compensation.

12. At all times pertinent hereto, Defendant Experian, Equifax, and Transunion were a “person” and “consumer reporting agency” as those terms are defined by 15 U.S.C. §1681a(b) and (f).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

13. That the Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681p, the Fair Credit Reporting Act (“FCRA”).

14. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) and as the Plaintiff resides in and the injury occurred in Wayne County, Michigan and Defendants do business in

Michigan.

15. Personal jurisdiction exists over Defendants as Plaintiff resides in Michigan, Defendants have the necessary minimum contacts with the state of Michigan, and this suit arises out of specific conduct with Plaintiff in Michigan.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

16. Plaintiff is a consumer who is the victim of inaccurate reporting by Defendants First Premier, Experian, Equifax, and Transunion (collectively, “Defendants”), and has suffered particularized and concrete harm.

17. Experian, Equifax, and Transunion are three of the largest consumer reporting agencies (“CRAs”) as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1681(a)(f).

18. The CRAs’ primary business is the sale of consumer reports (commonly referred to as “credit reports”) to third parties and consumers.

19. Experian, Equifax, and Transunion each have a duty, under the FCRA, to follow reasonable procedures to ensure that the consumer reports they sell meet the standard of “maximum possible accuracy.” 15 U.S.C. §1681(e)(b).

20. After reviewing Plaintiff’s consumer credit reports Plaintiff discovered his First Premier account (the “Account”) being reported in error – specifically the Account is reporting a balance past due after Plaintiff settled and paid off the account in full.

21. Despite receiving the full benefit of settlement on the Account, First Premier continues to falsely report a balance past due.

22. The inaccurate Account has become a permanent component of the Plaintiff’s credit profile and are reported to those who ask to review the credit history of Plaintiff.

23. The false information regarding the Account appearing on Plaintiff’s consumer reports harms the Plaintiff because it does not accurately depict Plaintiff’s credit history and creditworthiness.

PLAINTIFF'S WRITTEN DISPUTE

24. Plaintiff sent a written dispute to Experian ("Experian Dispute"), disputing the inaccurate information regarding the Account reporting on Plaintiff's Experian consumer report.

25. Plaintiff sent a written dispute to Equifax ("Equifax Dispute"), disputing the inaccurate information regarding the Account reporting on Plaintiff's Equifax consumer report.

26. Plaintiff sent a written dispute to Transunion ("Transunion Dispute"), disputing the inaccurate information regarding the Account reporting on Plaintiff's Transunion consumer report.

27. Despite the clarity and detail provided in the Experian Dispute, Equifax Dispute, and Transunion Dispute (together, the "Written Disputes"), the Account continued to appear on Plaintiff's Equifax, Experian, and Transunion consumer report with a balance past due.

28. Upon information and belief, Experian, Equifax, and Transunion forwarded Plaintiff's Written Disputes to Defendant First Premier.

29. Upon information and belief, First Premier received notification of Plaintiff's Written Disputes from Experian, Equifax, and Transunion.

30. First Premier did not conduct an investigation, contact Plaintiff, contact third-parties, or review underlying Account information with respect to the disputed information and the accuracy of the First Premier Account.

31. Experian, Equifax, and Transunion did not conduct an investigation, contact Plaintiff, contact third-parties, or review underlying account information with respect to the disputed information and the accuracy of the Account.

32. Upon information and belief, First Premier failed to instruct Experian, Equifax, and Transunion to remove the false information regarding the Account reporting on Plaintiff's consumer report.

33. Experian, Equifax, and Transunion each employed an investigation process that was not reasonable and did not remove the false information regarding the Accounts identified in Plaintiff's Written Disputes.

34. At no point after receiving the Written Disputes did First Premier, and/or Experian, Equifax, and Transunion communicate with Plaintiff to determine the veracity and extent of Plaintiff's Written Disputes.

35. Experian, Equifax, and Transunion relied on its own judgment and the information provided to them by First Premier rather than grant credence to the information provided by Plaintiff.

36. Experian, Equifax, and Transunion published the false information regarding the Account to third parties.

COUNT I – EXPERIAN, EQUIFAX, AND TRANSUNION

FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT VIOLATION – 15 U.S.C. §1681e(b)

37. Plaintiff re-alleges and reaffirms the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

38. After receiving the Written Disputes, Experian, Equifax, and Transunion failed to correct the false information regarding the Account reporting on Plaintiff's consumer reports.

39. Experian, Equifax, and Transunion each violated 15 U.S.C. §1681e(b) by failing to establish or to follow reasonable procedures to assure maximum possible accuracy in the preparation of the credit reports and credit files published and maintained concerning Plaintiff.

40. As a result of this conduct, action and inaction of Experian, Equifax and Transunion, Plaintiff suffered damage, and continues to suffer, actual damages, including economic loss, damage to reputation, emotional distress, and interference with Plaintiff's normal and usual activities for which Plaintiff seeks damages in an amount to be determined by the trier of fact.

41. Experian, Equifax, and Transunion's conduct, action, and inaction was willful, rendering Experian, Equifax, and Transunion liable to Plaintiff for punitive damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1681n.

42. In the alternative, Experian, Equifax, and Transunion were each negligent, entitling Plaintiff to recover damages under 15 U.S.C. §1681o.

43. Plaintiff is entitled to recover costs and attorneys' fees from Experian, Equifax, and Transunion, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1681n and/or §1681o.

COUNT II – EXPERIAN, EQUIFAX, AND TRANSUNION

FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT VIOLATION – 15 U.S.C. §1681(i)

44. Plaintiff re-alleges and reaffirms the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

45. After receiving the Written Disputes, Experian, Equifax, and Transunion failed to correct the false information regarding the Account reporting on Plaintiff's consumer reports.

46. Experian, Equifax, and Transunion violated 15 U.S.C. §1681i by failing to delete inaccurate information in Plaintiff's credit files after receiving actual notice of such inaccuracies, by failing to conduct lawful reinvestigations, by failing to maintain reasonable procedures with which to filter and verify disputed information in Plaintiff's credit files, and by failing to provide Plaintiff with a description of its procedures used to determine the accuracy and completeness of the disputed information.

47. As a result of this conduct, action and inaction of Experian, Equifax, and Transunion, Plaintiff suffered damage, and continues to suffer, actual damages, including economic loss, damage to reputation, emotional distress and interference with Plaintiff's normal and usual activities for which Plaintiff seeks damages in an amount to be determined by the trier of fact.

48. Experian, Equifax, and Transunion's conduct, action, and inaction was willful, rendering Experian, Equifax, and Transunion liable to Plaintiff for punitive damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1681n.

49. In the alternative, Experian, Equifax, and Transunion were each negligent, entitling Plaintiff to recover damages under 15 U.S.C. §1681o.

50. Plaintiff is entitled to recover costs and attorneys' fees from Experian, Equifax, and Transunion pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1681n and/or §1681o.

COUNT III – FIRST PREMIER

(Fair Credit Reporting Act Violation – 15 U.S.C. §1681s-2(b))

51. Plaintiff re-alleges and reaffirms the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

52. After receiving the Written Disputes, First Premier failed to correct the false information regarding the Account reporting on Plaintiff's consumer report.

53. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §1681s-2(b) by failing to fully and properly investigate Plaintiff's disputes of Defendant First Premier's representations; by failing to review all relevant information regarding Plaintiff's disputes; by failing to accurately respond to credit reporting agencies; by verifying false information; and by failing to permanently and lawfully correct its own internal records to prevent the re-reporting of Defendant First Premier's representations to consumer credit reporting agencies, among other unlawful conduct.

54. As a result of this conduct, action, and inaction of Defendant First Premier, Plaintiff suffered damages, and continues to suffer, actual damages, including economic loss, damage to reputation, emotional distress, and interference with Plaintiff's normal and usual activities for which Plaintiff seeks damages in an amount to be determined by the trier of fact.

55. Defendant First Premier's conduct, action, and inaction was willful, rendering Defendant liable to Plaintiff for punitive damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1681n.

56. In the alternative, Defendant First Premier was negligent, entitling Plaintiff to recover damages under 15 U.S.C. §1681o.

57. Plaintiff is entitled to recover costs and attorney's fees from Defendant First Premier pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1681n and/or 15 U.S.C. §1681o.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff seeks a reasonable and fair judgment against Defendants for willful noncompliance of the Fair Credit Reporting Act and seeks statutory remedies as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1681 and demands:

- A. Trial by jury;
- B. Actual damages to be proven at trial, or statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(1)(A), of not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000 per violation;
- C. Punitive damages, pursuant 15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(2), for Defendant's willful violation;
- D. The costs of instituting this action together with reasonable attorney's fees incurred by Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(3); and
- E. Any further legal and equitable relief as the court may deem just and proper in the circumstances.

Dated: July 21, 2023

/s/ Joseph Panvini
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